ABANDON FOOLISH ELFERINK PLAN

Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, has called on the Territory Government to heed the advice of experts who have warned against the Government’s plans to use prisoners as workers at the soon to be built abattoir.

“The CLP Government’s plans to use prisoners as workers at the abattoir are severely flawed,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Experts are saying that this plan is problematic because work in an abattoir is difficult, dangerous, and repetitive and research shows it is psychologically damaging.”

Flinders University School of Social and Policy Studies associate professor, Nik Taylor has said that research shows that work in an abattoir can affect a person’s ability to feel empathy for other people and for other animals, which in turn can lead to increased rates of aggression.

Ms Taylor also said there's also research in the United States that shows increased crime rates in communities with slaughterhouses.

“This is of serious concern to the community,” Ms Lawrie said.

“While there are obvious benefits to prisoners serving their time involved in a productive vocation, and Labor had its own work release program, surely there is a more appropriate industry the Government can engage them in.

“We’ve seen the CLP Government’s arrogant disregard towards the interests of Territorians, but hopefully the New Year has brought with it an increased willingness to heed experts and abandon the more foolish whims of CLP ministers.”

Media contact: Cathryn Tilmouth 0427 500 667